

The Daily Courant.

Wednesday, July 7. 1703

Hague, July 13.

The following Account of the Battle fought at Eckeren on the 30th of last Month, is dated from the French Camp at Dueren, July 1. and printed at Namur.

THE Marquês de Bedmar having projected, in concert with the Marshals de Villeroi and Boufflers, to attack the Army of the Enemies commanded by Monsieur Obdam, encamp'd at Eckeren, within a League of our Lines; The Marshal de Boufflers left the Grand Army encamp'd at Dieft on the 29th of June at 11 in the Morning, with 1500 Grenadiers and 30 Squadrons, half Horse half Dragoons, to joyn the Marquês de Bedmar, in order to attack with the greater Advantage the Enemy, whose Cavalry we were inform'd was encamp'd on the Heath adjoining to the Village of Eckeren; but we learnt afterwards that all their Troops, consisting (according to the report of the Deserters and Prisoners) of above 20 Battallions, 8 Regiments of Horse and 4 of Dragoons, were encamp'd about that Village, among Enclosures, where Horse could not act. The Marshal de Boufflers who left his Troops on their March to come and consult before with the Marquês de Bedmar, arriv'd on the 29th at 10 at Night at Prince Tserclaes de Tilly's Quarters at Winneghem, whither the Marquês de Bedmar repair'd to meet him. The Troops did not arrive till yesterday at 4 in the Morning; at 7 the whole Army, compos'd of 28 Battallions and 49 Squadrons put themselves in Motion, and having 4 Leagues to march, by reason of the large Circumference which was found expedient to be taken to get by the Heath to the Enemies Rear, and to keep our March undiscover'd, the Cavalry could not arrive till 3 in the Afternoon in sight of the Enemies Camp, who then fir'd 3 pieces of Cannon to order their Troops to their Arms: Our Infantry with the Artillery did not come up till half an hour past 4. Our foremost Troops arriving at the Village of Houwen within half a League of Eckeren, found there several Squadrons of the Enemies. The Troop of Guards of the Marquês de Bedmar, and the Brigade of Toulougon compos'd of 6 Squadrons, were order'd to charge them, which was done by the Troop of Guards with so much Valour, that they broke and disorder'd 4 Squadrons; and the Regiment of Toulougon serving the Squadrons they charg'd in like manner, the Enemies Horse retir'd behind their Foot. Monsieur de Verboom, Quarter Master General of the Spanish Troops, going at the same time with 40 Dragoons to the Village of Oteren, (from whence runs a Digue to Lillo,) to see whether the Enemy had not a Design to retreat that way, found there the Countess de Tilly who was come to Dine in the Camp with the Count her Husband, and was returning to Lillo with 2 Coaches with 6 Horses each; the Lady was taken and conducted to the Quarters of Prince Tserclaes her Brother in Law. Monsieur de Verboom perceiv'd that the Enemies Troops, particularly the Foot, intended to march by the Village of Oteren to retire to Lillo: Whereupon the Marshal de Boufflers immediately sent thither the Count de Guiscard

with 3 Regiments of Dragoons who took Post on the Digue, and afterwards the Brigades of Wetterlo and Deinfse, consisting of 6 Battallions, were order'd to reinforce the Count de Guiscard and enable him to maintain his Ground; The Enemy seeing this Passage secur'd, mov'd one way and t'other in their Camp and the Polders lying about it, like Men in doubt what course to take. Several of their Battallions drew up behind some Hedges and a Ditch full of Water at one end of the Village of Houwen, near the Place from whence their Cavalry was beaten; whereupon Orders were sent to hasten the March of the Infantry and Artillery; they arriv'd at 5 a clock, and both were commanded to advance with some Regiments of Horse to support the Foot, which rang'd themselves in Battallia within half a Musquet shot of the Enemy's Infantry; after the Artillery had play'd a while, our Men charg'd the Enemy's Foot, who made one Discharge from their small Arms and retir'd behind other Ditches and Hedges, from which they were beaten and oblig'd to retire into the Village of Eckeren, where the Fight grew hotter; the Enemies being driven out thence, betook themselves to the Digue that leads to Wilmerdonck, where the Dispute was very obstinate and lasted till Night, our Troops making an extraordinary Fire, and as they drew back on the Digue our Cavalry and Dragoons advanc'd to support our Infantry. A Troop of Dragoons advanc'd on the Digue beyond our Foot, which produc'd an ill effect; for 60 or 80 of the Enemies Horse who came up on the other side of the Digue fell headlong upon them Sword in Hand, and drove them backwards on the Troop behind them, and the Ardour of the Troops having made them draw up close after each other without leaving any space between Troop and Troop, our Horse was oblig'd to retire a little in disorder towards the Village where the Fight began; this Motion of the Cavalry caus'd some disorder likewise among the Infantry on the Digue, who were oblig'd to retire down to the foot of the Digue, both on the Right and Left. Part of the Officers and Soldiers pass'd a great Ditch full of Water which divides the Road that is at the foot of the Digue from some Meadows and Corn-Fields that lye along that Ditch, and in which stood 5 or 6 Battallions commanded by the Prince d'Epinoy and the Marquês de Thoy, which charg'd the Enemy so opportunely, as they were returning from driving our Cavalry before them 5 or 600 Paces, that the Officer and all his Troopers were kill'd, except 3 or 4 who rejoyn'd the main Body of the Enemy. It being then 9 a clock at Night, our Horse and Foot that remain'd on the Digue retir'd towards the Village of Houwen, but the Prince d'Epinoy and Monsieur de Thoy, continued with the Battallions under their command above an hour and an half longer on the ground where they were posted, which was properly the Field of Battle, seeing it was there and on the Digue that the Main of the Action pass'd; for which reason, the Enemy cannot deny that we remain'd Masters of the Field of Battle, and for that, besides, the Count de Guiscard did not quit the Digue.

Digue and the Village of Otteren till 11 at Night, from whence he drove the Enemy at first, and where he maintain'd himself during the whole Action, notwithstanding the extraordinary Efforts made by the Enemy at different times to beat us from thence, in order to open themselves a Passage to Lillo. The Engagement which lasted at least 4 Hours, was so hot and obstinate, that those who have been in other Actions, confess they never beheld a more terrible Fire than what was made on both sides, particularly by the Dutch Foot, who are very brave, and better Marksmen than ours. Could the Enemy have found a way to retreat, we are perswaded they would not have stood to it so boldly, but being hem'd in on all sides, they fought desperately, with a Resolution to oblige us to let them escape, or to sell their Lives very dear. The Enemy, accusom'd to magnify little Matters, will not fail to draw Consequences in their own Favour, from the ill behaviour of our Horse; but besides that the Foot did not retire, the retreat of the Horse ought not to appear strange, when 'tis consider'd that they were posted on the top of a Digue where only 4 could move a-breast, and the shelving of the Digue was so crowded with Squadrons, that those a-top had hardly room to stir. We took between 5 and 600 Prisoners, 6 pieces of Cannon, several Colours and Standards, pillag'd all their Baggage, and took 150 Carriages loaded with Ammunition of all sorts, and 40 Mortars for throwing Hand-Grenadoes. Monsieur Obdam General of the Enemies Army fled away in the midst of the Action (accompanied by 4 Officers and 2 led Horses,) over the Heath towards Breda; and sufficiently shew'd the Fear he was in by one Circumstance, viz. sticking a piece of Paper in his Hat, that he might not be question'd by any of our Men that might have intercepted him in his Flight. A Letter of his written to the D. of Marlborough was intercepted, in which he informs that General that his Ammunitions and Baggage, and was apprehensive for Lillo. The Princess of Hesse Homburg habited like an Amazone on Horseback, escap'd likewise by the Heath to Breda. On our side between 15 and 1600 Men were kill'd or wounded. Of the Enemy 'tis computed above 2000 were kill'd on the Spot, and 80 Boats have been sent from Lillo with their Wounded, besides 200 that were found on the Field of Battle and brought into Antwerp. We had at least 150 Officers kill'd or wounded, tho' all the Majors not having yet given in their Lists the exact Number is not known, but 'tis believ'd there were but 60 Officers kill'd, the chief of which are the Collonel de Signerau of the Regiment of Maine, and the Count de Brias Collonel of a Walloon Regiment. Among our wounded are the Duke de Nortemart, the Baron de Kerys Collonel of the Elector of Cologne's Life Guard, the Count de Notaf Collonel of that Electors Guards of Dragoons, Monsieur de Valensar a Collonel of Dragoons, the Chevalier de Bournonville, the Marquess de la Vere, and Monsieur de Courville. 5 or 6 Lieutenant Colonels were killed, and a great many Captains.

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury Lane, this present Wednesday being the Seventh of July, will be presented several Dramatick Entertainments, viz. A Comedy call'd, *The Comical Rivals*, or, *The School-Boy*. The select Scenes of *Nikin*, being the fourth Act of *The Old Batchelor*. And the comical Scenes of *The Angry Doctor*, and, *The Doubting Philosopher*, being the last Act of *Le Medicin Malgre Luy*. With variety of Singing and Dancing.

There is to be Sold, very cheap, a Quantity of the best Sort of right well-fed Herefordshire Bacon, in Flitches, either singly, or in parcels; it being of

such Goodness, Price, and Weight, as may suit any Family. Enquire at Mr. Thomas Randall's Wharfinger at Brokenwharf, or at Mr. Loffring's near the Windmill Water-House by Thames-street, London.

THE Annual Feast of Steepney will be held on Thursday the 15th of this instant July, at the King's Head in Steepney aforesaid. All Clergy-Men born in the said Parish, are invited to the same. And all Persons that have Apprentices put to them by the former Stewards, are desir'd to send them to attend the present ones.

ON Friday the 16th of this instant July, at Two a clock in the Afternoon, a piece of Plate of 25 Guineas value is to be Shot for in the Artillery Ground by Moor-Fields, no Gun to exceed four Foot and a half in barrel; The distance to be 200 Yards, and but one Shot a-piece; the nearest the Center to win: No Person that Shoots to put in less than one Guinea, but as many more as he pleases to compleat the Sum, he to have for every Guinea a Shoot: The Money to be put into the Hands of Mr. Fer. Jones at the Lyon and Horse-shoe Tavern upon Tower-Hill, or Mr. Turvey Gun-smith in the Minories. Note, If any single Gentleman hath a mind to Shoot for the whole, there is a Person will Shoot with him for it.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Second Edition of the Life of K. William the Third, containing an account of his Family, Birth, Education, Accession to be Sadtholder, and Captain General of Holland, his Marriage, Expedition to England, with the History of his and his Princess's Reign, Enterprizes and conduct in Peace and War. And a Relation of his Will, Death and Funeral, with many original papers, Letters, Memoires, his Speeches, Declarations, Treaties and Alliances, several never before printed. With divers cuts, Medals, &c. Printed for J. Knapton at the Crown in St. Paul's Church-yard. price 6 s.

EXpository Notes with Practical Observations on the New Testament, of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Wherein the Sacred Text is at large recited, The Sense explained, and the Instructive Example of the Blessed Jesus and his Ho'y Apostles, to our Imitation Recommended. The whole designed to Encourage the Reading of the Scriptures in Private Families, and to render the Daily Perusal of them Profitable and Delightful. Endeavoured by William Burkitt, Vicar and Lecturer of Dordham in Essex, Chaplain to the Right Honourable Charles Lord Fitz Walter. Printed for J. Robinson, at the Golden Lyon, and J. Wyat at the Rose in St. Pauls Church-Yard.

Synodus Anglicana: Or the Constitution and Proceedings of an English Convocation; shewn from the Acts and Registers thereof, to be agreeable to the Principles of an Episcopal Church. Appendix 1. Three Registers of the Upper House in 1562. In which the XXXIX Articles were agreed upon 1640. under A. B. Laud 1661 &c. In which the Common Prayer was reviv'd. 2. The two entire Journals of the Lower House in 1586 and 1588, 8vo. Printed for A. and J. Churchill at the Black Swan in Pater-Noster-Row.

A Defence of Moderate Nonconformity. In Answer to the Reflections of Mr. Olyffe and Mr. Hoadly, on the Tenth Chapter of the Life of the Rev. Mr. Richard Baxter. With a Postscript containing some Remarks on a Tract of Mr. Derrington, Entituled, *The Dissenting Ministry in Religion, censur'd and condemn'd from the Holy Scriptures*. By Edm. Calamy, E. F. and N. Printed for J. Robinson at the Golden Lyon in St. Paul's Church-yard, and J. Lawrence at the Angel in the Poultrey.

Pious Instructions, which were found hanging up in a black Ebony Frame, written in Gold, in King Charles the First's Cloister soon after his Death 1648, neatly printed upon a Broad-side with His Majesty's Picture, to be put into Frames. Sold by Geo. Sawbridge in Little-Brittain. price 6 d.

LONDON Printed, and Sold by Sam. Buckley at the Dolphin in Little-Brittain